(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) In the last week of December, 2001, demonstrations were held in Kathmandu and other places of Nepal protesting against a rumour concerning anti-Nepal remarks purported to have been made by Indian film star Hrithik Roshan. The rumour was without any foundation whatsoever and was denied by Mr. Roshan. The demonstrations took on an anti-India colour and resulted in damage to the property of people of Indian origin in Nepal. The manner in which these incidents were engineered gives rise to the suspicion that vested interests working against friendly India-Nepal relations were involved. A Commission of Inquiry has been set up by His Majesty's Government of Nepal for investigating these incidents.

(b) Four persons participating in the demonstrations and one by-stander are reported to have died in police firing in Kathmandu on December 26. Another two persons died in Rajbiraj, in Saptari district of Nepal, in police firing on December 28. Assessment of loss of property has not been made by His Majesty's Government of Nepal.

(c) and (d) India-Nepal Foreign Secretary level talks were held in Delhi on January 30 and 31, 2001. The issue came up for discussion during these talks and the concern of the Government of India has been conveyed to the Nepalese side. Both sides agreed on the need to ensure that such incidents do not recur in future.

Anti-Hrithik demonstration's impact on Indo-Nepal ties

181. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any analysis in relation to the Indo-Neapl ties after the recent anti-Hrithik Roshan demonstrations in Nepal that turned out to be anti-India campaign with attacks on the people of Indian origin in Nepal besides withdrawing Hindi services of Radio Nepal and Nepal Television;

(b) if so, whether the Government suspect ISI hand in the agitation and anti-India demonstration in Nepal; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto stating the steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The manner in which these incidents were engineered gives rise to the suspicion that vested interests working against friendly India-Nepal relations were involved.

(c) The Government of India took up the matter at the highest level with His Majesty's Government of Nepal to ensure the safety and security of Indian nationals and people of Indian origin and their properties. The Government of Nepal conveyed its assurance that necessary measures would be taken. A Commission of Inquiry has been set up by His Majesty's Government of Nepal for investigating these incidents.

Missing sensitive documents

182. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that important documents of sensitive nature were recently stolen from the office of Minister of External Affairs despite security arrangements;

(b) if so, the details thereof stating the nature of the stolen documents;

(c) whether these documents have been recovered or traced;

(d) the outcome of the inquiry conducted by Government into gross security lapses making it possible for the intruder to steal the documents; and

(e) what action has been taken by Government in the matter?